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State Water Resources Control Board

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

SALINITY ISSUES IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

Tuesday, January 31, 2006 – 10 a.m.
Coastal Hearing Room
Joe Serna Jr./Cal/EPA Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) are holding a joint Public Workshop on Salinity Issues in the Central Valley. The workshop will be held at the time and place above and is rescheduled from the earlier postponed date of November 16, 2005. This workshop is for information gathering only. Interested parties are invited to provide comments and recommendations on managing salinity problems in surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley.

BACKGROUND

Salt accumulation in surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley is a natural process inherent to lands with semi-arid to arid climates, enclosed basins, or reduced or impeded drainage. Salt accumulation of surface water and groundwater can impact and eventually eliminate most beneficial uses. Salt accumulation can be exacerbated by a wide variety of human activities including irrigation; importation of surface water; application of fertilizer (including manure and biosolids) and pesticides; land disposal of wastes including those from food processing facilities, wineries, and municipal wastewater treatment plants; discharge of urban storm water runoff; and use of recycled wastewater.

The salinity impairment of surface water and groundwater in the Central Valley is a subset of a more far-reaching problem shared by most of California, other arid western states, and much of the developed world. As surface water and groundwater supplies become scarcer, and as wastewater streams become more concentrated, salinity impairments are occurring with greater frequency and magnitude.

Subsequent to this Public Workshop, the State Water Board and the Central Valley Water Board will jointly consider whether there is a need for further action on this issue.

SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Written comments are welcome and encouraged, and must be received by 5:00 p.m., January 20, 2006, and will not be accepted after that time. Oral presentations should summarize written comments. Time limitations on presentations may be imposed. Please coordinate oral presentations with others with similar comments. For other presentation recommendations, see "Presentations to the Board," at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board.html>.

Written comments on the salt accumulation issue are to be addressed and submitted to Selica Potter, Acting Clerk to the Board, either by fax (916) 341-5620, mail addressed to State Water Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California, 95812-0100, or e-mail commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov. Please also indicate in the subject line, "COMMENT LETTER – 1/31/06 BOARD WORKSHOP on Salinity." For general questions about workshops, call (916) 341-5600. For specific questions about the Salinity Workshop, contact Wayne Verrill via e-mail at wverrill@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5585. For a map to our building, see our Web site at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPABldg/location.htm>.

PARKING AND ACCESSIBILITY

There is a parking garage across the street from the building with entrances on 10th and 11th Streets between "I" and "J" Streets, and there are metered parking spaces in the vicinity of the building. Both facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Adrian Perez, at (916) 341-5880, at least five working days prior to the public hearing date. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service TDD. TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD Device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1-800-735-2929, Voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

All visitors to the CalEPA building are required to sign in and receive a badge prior to attending any meeting. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level so please allow up to 15 minutes for this process.

An audio broadcast of the workshop can be heard via the World Wide Web at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>.



Selica Potter
Acting Clerk to the Board

December 21, 2005

Date